Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: FR, HU, US
SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU'S CONCERN OVER HUNGARIAN AGITATION
DURING HIS VISIT TO US

1. CHEF DE CABINET OF ALIAM POHER, PRESIDENT OF FRENCH SENATE, CALLED EMBOFF APRIL 6 TO SAY THAT CEAUSESCU HAD CONTACTED POHER DIRECTLY TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE WAY HE WILL BE RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON, PARTICULARLY BY THE HUNGARIAN LOBBY IN CONGRESS. CEAUSESCU REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE HUNGARIANS ARE AGITATING ON BEHALF OF THEIR FELLOW ETHNICS WHO LIVE IN THE TRAN-SYLVANIAN REGION OF ROMANIA. AS THEY HAVE DONE PERIODICALLY SINCE WORLD WAR TWO, AND THAT THIS THEME IS BEING PICKED UP BY HUNGARIANS LIVING IN THE US. THERE IS ALSO SOME SPECULATION THAT MOSCOW MIGHT HAVE A HAND IN THIS AGITATION, PRESUMABLY TO INCREASE ITS PRESSURE ON ROMANIA AND CURB ITS INDEPENDENT LINE IN FOREIGN POLICY. POHER ASKED THAT CEAUSESCU'S CONCERN BE COMMUNICATED TO US. EMPHASIZING THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF HIS MESSAGE SINCE POHER AND EUROPEANS IN GENERAL HAVE SECONDARY INTEREST IN THE VISIT TO THE US.

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2. POHER'S OFFICE SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD CEAUSESCU WOULD BE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND WILL HAVE AT LEAST SOME MEETINS WITH US CONFRESSMEN. IT IS THESE LATTER MEETINGS WHICH CONCERN CEAUSESCU. ONE OF THE MAIN PIECES OF BUSINESS HE INTENDS TO TAKE UP IN WASHINGTON IS MFN TREATMENT AND US-ROMANIAN COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES. HE IS WORRIED THAT CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE WILL BE

BROUGHT TO RESTRICT PROGRESS IN THIS AREA.

3. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHY CEAUSESCU SHOULD USE THIS CHANNEL TO CONVEY HIS CONCERNS, OR WHETHER HE EVEN INTENDED HIS VIEWS TO BE PASSED ON TO THE USG, BUT REPORT IT FOR ADDRESSEES' INFORMATION. HARTMAN

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